

STURGEON ROAD BRIDGE

HAER No. MI-73

Spanning Sturgeon River on Sturgeon Road

Baraga vicinity

Baraga County

Michigan

HAER
MICH
7-BARA V
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service

Northeast Region

Philadelphia Support Office

U.S. Custom House

200 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

STURGEON ROAD BRIDGE HAER NO. MI- 73

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7-BARA.V,
1-

Location: Spanning Sturgeon River on Sturgeon Road
Baraga Vicinty, Baraga County, Michigan

UTM: 16.382510.5191255
QUAD: Bear Town, Michigan (1985)
1:24000

Date of Construction: Circa 1910

Engineer: Unknown.

Present Owner: Baraga County Road Commission
US 41 South, P.O. Box 227
L'Anse, MI 49946

Present Use: Vehicular and pedestrian bridge.

Significance: The Sturgeon Road Bridge is significant as a long span,
pony steel truss structure typical of that era of bridge
construction.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in March, 1994 in
accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement among the
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Michigan
State Historic Preservation Officer, the Federal Highway
Administration, the Michigan Department of Transportation
and the Baraga County Road Commission as a mitigatory
measure prior to replacing the bridge in July, 1994. The
report was prepared by Michael T. Drewyor, of Hitch, Inc.,
Houghton, MI.

The Setting

The Sturgeon Road Bridge, erected circa 1910, stands 3.1 miles west of Keweenaw Bay and US Highway 41 and 0.5 miles east of the Houghton County line in northwest Baraga County.

This bridge provided one way access to farm land on the west side of the Sturgeon River and seasonal roads extending 2 miles North and South along the west riverbank.

Today, the bridge carries local traffic to the one active farm on the west bank and to seasonal homes along the west riverbank road.

The Bridge

The bridge is a single 93 foot span, pratt pony steel truss structure. The truss is 11 feet deep and extends 9 feet above the roadway. The bridge is 18 feet wide out to out with a 16 foot clear roadway. It has 3 inch by 8 inch timber transverse decking and 4 pieces of 3 by 8 longitudinal decking for each wheel track. These are supported on 6, 6 inch deep longitudinal steel stringer I-beams and 2, 6 inch deep channels (exterior spans) @ 2 foot 3 inches o.c. spanning between 5, 12 inch deep steel transverse I-beams @ 15 foot 6 inches o.c. One half inch diameter steel rod diagonal X bracing occurs in each of 6 bays below the roadway. The abutments are steel caissons filled with concrete.

The superstructure is constructed of steel double angles and channels, all of riveted construction. The top chord consists of two, 7 inch deep channels back to back with a continuous 12 inch wide cover plate on top and 12 inch wide by 4 inch long spacer plates on the bottom. The diagonals are 3 inch angles spaced 12 inches apart for the 45 degree diagonals and spaced 7 inches apart for the vertical chord members with spacer plates.

The bottom chord consists of angles similar to the diagonals and spacer plates described above. The guardrail consisted of a one half inch diameter steel cable strung through the uprights about 36 inches above the bridge deck on each side of the bridge.

Building the Bridge

There are no records to indicate which construction firm erected the bridge nor any information on the designer of the bridge.

Original Plans and/or Photographs

There were no written records, plans or photographs found for the existing bridge. The list below indicates the places searched for information.

INFORMATION SOURCES SEARCHED/CONSULTED FOR THIS PROJECT.

1. Baraga County Register of Deeds
Baraga County Courthouse
16 North Third St.
L'Anse, MI 49946
2. Baraga Twp. Office
325 Lyons, P.O. Box 246
Baraga, MI 49908
3. Baraga County Road Commission
US 41 South, P.O. Box 227
L'Anse, MI 49946
4. Michigan Technological University
J. Van Pelt Library
1400 Townsend Dr.
Houghton, MI 49931

Reference Notes

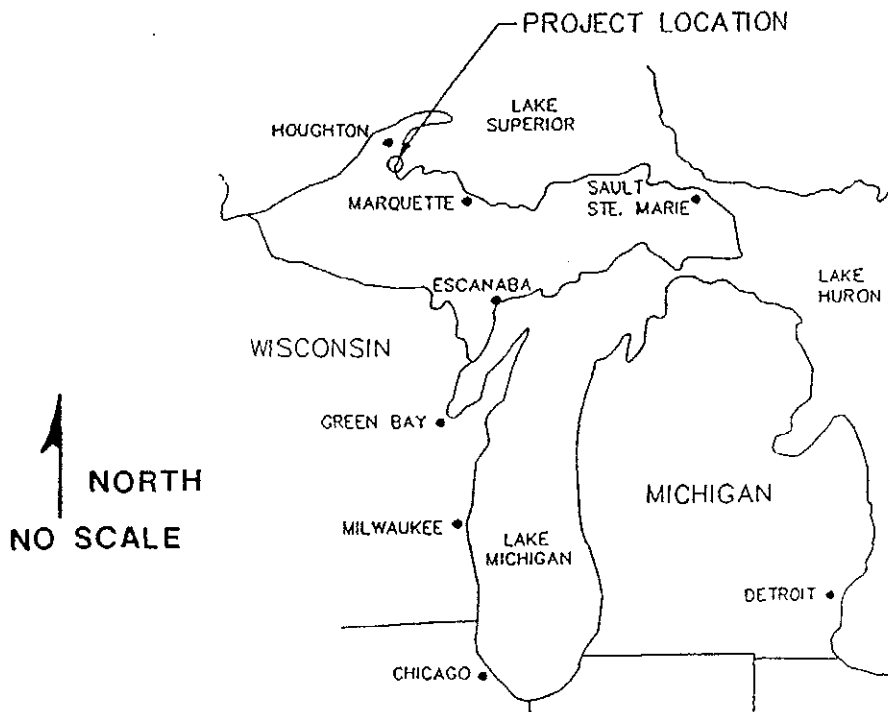
1. Contact Hitch, Inc., US 41 South, P.O. Box 367, Houghton, MI 49931 for engineering plans of replacement bridge.

LOCATION MAP

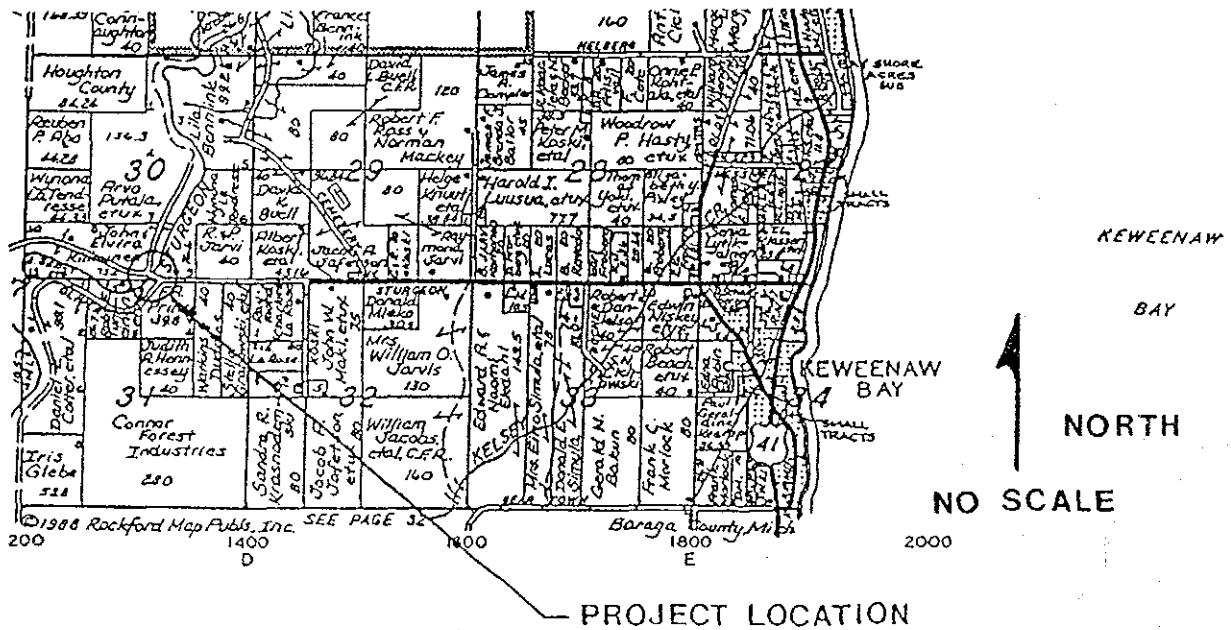
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LOCATION MAP



SITE PLAN

